



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities

43 Woodland Street, Suite 260, Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone: 860-246-6400 Facsimile: 860-246-6406

Website: www.arcofct.org

President  
Diane Aubin  
The Arc of New London County  
Norwich

Executive Director  
Lynn C. Warner

February 18, 2010

First Vice President  
Imelda Reno  
The Arc of Farmington Valley  
Canton

**Testimony before The Appropriations Committee**  
**2010 State Agency Budget Presentations**

Second Vice President  
Barry Sheffel  
The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford  
Meriden

by  
**Leslie Simoes, Assistant Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut**

Secretary  
Lori Baer  
The Arc of Litchfield County  
Torrington

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Gerigosian, and Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Leslie Simoes the Assistant Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 58-year-old statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. We have 23 local chapters that provide supports, services, and advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities throughout Connecticut.

Treasurer  
Anthony Recck  
Futures, Inc.  
Middletown

Immediate Past President  
Ken Cholewinski  
SARAH Seneca  
Gulford

Today, the Connecticut legislature has an incredible opportunity. No one fixes the roof when it is sunny and everyone knows there is no new money being funneled into the system. Our opportunity is to look at all state agency budgets and reorganize resources to maximize state services.

Contributions are tax-deductible

But I am here tonight to specifically discuss one agency; The Department of Developmental Services. Unfortunately, DDS still operates a variety of institutional models with Southbury Training School and several Regional Centers.

Here are some facts.

- There are approximately \$3.5 Million people living in Connecticut and approximately 33,500 have a developmental disability.
- DDS serves approximately 20,000 people with developmental disabilities which is 60% of all individuals with Developmental Disabilities in Connecticut.

**The Arc/Connecticut, Inc. Member Chapters:** Futures, Inc., Middletown / Greater Enfield Arc / Family Options, Watertown / The Arc of Farmington Valley / Friends of New Milford, Inc. / The Arc of Litchfield County / LOV-Arc, Westbrook / MARC, Inc., Manchester / MARC: Community Resources, Portland / The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford / The Arc of Greater New Haven / The Arc of New London County / Options, Unlimited / The Arc of Plainville / The Arc of Quinebaug Valley / SARAH Inc., Gulford / SARAH Seneca Residential Services / SARAH Tuxis Residential Services / STAR, Norwalk / The Arc of Southington / Tri County Arc, Columbia / Waterbury Arc / WeCAHR, Danbury

**Affiliated with The Arc of the United States**

- As of June 2009 there were 478 people living at Southbury Training School, approximately 2% of the people being served by DDS live at Southbury Training School.
- The budget for DDS in 2009 was approximately \$920 Million.
- The budget for Southbury Training School in 2009 was approximately \$86 Million.
- In 2009, 10% of the DDS budget was spent on 2% of the population served.
- STS is a Medicaid ICF/MR facility and the Medicaid rate for STS currently is \$952.00/day per person. Using this figure the state of Connecticut bills Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \$347,480 per person per year.

You do the math.

STS is just the beginning. Equally startling figures are used at the regional centers for the approximate 230 people who are supported there. There are over 2,000 people waiting for services in the state of Connecticut and that number is growing!

When individuals leave STS, usually by death, there is no formal mechanism to make the dollars previously used to support the individual at STS available to meet the support needs of another individual coming into the system from the Waiting List. There should be.

The federal government provides 50% of the dollars spent whether spent at an institution like STS or under a Medicaid Waiver in the community.

So I ask you tonight, will you take this opportunity presented and look at the DDS budget and the costs associated with Southbury Training School and the regional centers? Will you find creative solutions to support individuals with developmental disabilities in less restrictive environments in the community? Will you invite all stakeholders including the labor unions to the table to discuss how we can utilize existing dollars in the DDS budget more effectively to support more individuals?

It is raining in Connecticut. Will you fix the roof?